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PATENT

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September 10, 2002   *Denise Sheridan*
_____   _____

Date   Denise Sheridan

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	: Nancey J. Hammond	Attorney Docket No. :	500249.01 (660082.527M)
Serial No.	: 09/153,994	Group Art Unit	: 2151
Filed	: September 17, 1998	Examiner	: L. Bullock, Jr.
Title	: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR ENHANCING RELIABILITY OF COMMUNICATION WITH ELECTRONIC MESSAGE		

Box Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1. 131

Sir:

I, Nancey J. Hammond, declare the following:

1. I am the named inventor on the above referenced patent application.

2. I was employed as a Legal Secretary for Micron Technology, Inc. from 5-01 to 6-02. Prior to that I was employed as a Senior Legal Secretary for Micron Electronics, Inc. from 12-96 to 5-01.

3. Prior to February 19, 1998, I conceived of the method and system for enhancing the reliability of communication with electronic messages, as described more fully in the above-referenced patent application.

4. Exhibit A is a copy of documentation created near the dates of conception of the invention, including detailed descriptions of various aspects of the inventive system and methods. Portions of Exhibit A which are not relevant to this declaration have been redacted. I prepared invention disclosure number 97.03844, corresponding to pages 1-4 of Exhibit A. The invention disclosure statement was submitted to my employer, Micron Electronics (and later assigned to the present assignee, Micron Technology, Inc.), for the purpose of preparing a patent application. The invention disclosure statement was thereafter submitted to patent counsel for preparation of the present application. Although the date of conception has been redacted from paragraph 3.1 of Exhibit A, the

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undersigned certifies and declares that the date that has been redacted is prior to February 19, 1998. The first page of Exhibit A has been date-stamped as "received" by the Micron Electronics Legal Department on November 21, 1997.

5. Prior to February 19, 1998, I had conceived of a method in a computer system for a sender of an electronic message to ensure that the electronic message is delivered to and reviewed by intended recipient users, the method comprising composing the electronic message, indicating a plurality of intended recipient users, selecting a delivery recipient user from the intended recipient users, selecting a review recipient user from the intended recipient users, sending the electronic message to the plurality of intended recipient users, requesting from the delivery recipient user a delivery notification when the electronic message is delivered to the recipient user, requesting from the review recipient user a review notification when the review recipient user reviews the electronic message, determining a delivery waiting period for receiving the delivery notification, determining a review waiting period for receiving the review notification, and without user intervention, when the delivery notification from the delivery recipient user is not received by the sender within the delivery waiting period, resending the electronic message to the delivery recipient user, and when the review notification from the review recipient user is not received by the sender within the review waiting period, sending a second electronic message to the review recipient user. Such a method is recited in claim 1 of the patent application.

6. Also prior to February 19, 1998, I had conceived of various alternate embodiments of methods in a computer system for a sender of an electronic message to ensure that the electronic message is delivered to and reviewed by intended recipient users as described in the preceding paragraph. For example, I had conceived of a method in a computer system for a sender of an electronic message to ensure that the electronic message is delivered to and reviewed by intended recipient users wherein multiple delivery recipient users and multiple review recipient users are selected, wherein the resending is performed for each delivery recipient user when a delivery notification for that delivery recipient user is not received by the sender within the delivery waiting period, and wherein the sending of the second electronic message is performed for each review recipient user when a review notification for that review recipient user is not received by the sender within the review waiting period (claim 2). I had also conceived of a method in a computer system for a sender of an electronic message to ensure that the electronic message is delivered to and reviewed by intended recipient users wherein the sent second electronic message is distinct from the sent electronic message, wherein the sent electronic message indicated a priority level for review of the sent electronic message, and wherein the sent second electronic message indicates an elevated priority level for review of the sent second electronic message (claim 3); and a method in a computer system for a sender of an electronic message to ensure that the electronic message is delivered to and reviewed by intended recipient users including determining a user responsible for delivery of electronic messages, and when the delivery notification for the delivery recipient user is not received by the sender within the delivery waiting period, sending an electronic message to the determined user (claim 4). I had also conceived of a method in a computer system for a sender of an electronic message to ensure that the electronic message is delivered to and reviewed by intended recipient users including

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determining a user able to prompt review of the sent electronic message by the review recipient user, and when the review notification for the review recipient user is not received by the sender within the review waiting period, sending an electronic message to the determined user to prompt review of the sent electronic message by the review recipient user (claim 5).

7. Also prior to February 19, 1998, I had conceived of a method in a computer system for delivery of an electronic message, the method comprising determining whether after sending of the electronic message to a recipient a user-specified period of time has elapsed without receiving a confirmation of delivery of the electronic message to the recipient, and when it is determined that the user-specified period of time has elapsed without receiving the confirmation, sending another electronic message. Such a method is recited in claim 6 of the patent application.

8. Also prior to February 19, 1998, I had conceived of various alternate embodiments of methods in a computer system for delivery of an electronic message as described in the preceding paragraph. For example, I had conceived of a method in a computer system for delivery of an electronic message wherein the electronic message is sent to a plurality of recipients, wherein a period of time is determined for each recipient, and wherein the sending of another message is performed automatically for each recipient when the period of time for that recipient has elapsed without receiving a confirmation of delivery to that recipient (claim 7); and a method in a computer system for delivery of an electronic message wherein the determined period of time for each recipient is based on past performance of delivering electronic messages to that recipient (claim 8). I also had conceived of a method in a computer system for delivery of an electronic message wherein an electronic message can be sent with one of a plurality of priority levels, and wherein the sending of the another electronic message is performed with a higher priority level than the sending of the electronic message (claim 9); and a method in a computer system for delivery of an electronic message including requesting of the confirmation of the delivery to the recipient (claim 10). I also had conceived of a method in a computer system for delivery of an electronic message wherein the requesting of the confirmation includes querying the recipient after the sending of the electronic message to determine if the sent electronic message was delivered to the recipient (claim 11); and a method in a computer system for delivery of an electronic message including after receiving the confirmation, automatically sending a third electronic message after a second user-specified period of time (claim 12). Additionally, I also had conceived of a method in a computer system for delivery of an electronic message wherein the sending of the another electronic message involves resending the electronic message to the recipient (claim 13); and a method in a computer system for delivery of an electronic message wherein the sending of the another electronic message involves determining a user responsible for delivery of electronic messages and sending to the determined user an electronic message distinct from the sent electronic message (claim 14).

9. Also prior to February 19, 1998, I had conceived of a method in a computer system for delivery of an electronic message, the method comprising determining whether after sending of the electronic message to a recipient a pre-determined period of time has elapsed without receiving a confirmation that the recipient reviewed the sent electronic

message, and when it is determined that the period of time has elapsed without receiving the confirmation, sending another electronic message.   Such a method is recited in claim 15 of the patent application.

10. Also prior to February 19, 1998, I had conceived of various alternate embodiments of methods in a computer system for delivery of an electronic message as described in the preceding paragraph. For example, I had conceived of a method in a computer system for delivery of an electronic message including requesting the confirmation (claim 16); and a method in a computer system for delivery of an electronic message including monitoring review of electronic messages by the recipient to determine when the recipient reviews the sent electronic message (claim 17). I also had conceived of a method in a computer system for delivery of an electronic message wherein the monitoring of the review includes detecting when the recipient accesses the sent electronic message, and monitoring user interaction with the accessed electronic message to determine if review of the accessed electronic message has occurred (claim 18); and a method in a computer system for delivery of an electronic message wherein the electronic message is sent to a plurality of recipients, wherein a period of time is determined for each recipient, and wherein the sending of the another message is performed automatically for each recipient when the period of time for that recipient has elapsed without receiving a confirmation for that recipient (claim 19). I also had conceived of a method in a computer system for delivery of an electronic message wherein the determined period of time for each recipient is based on past performance of the recipient in reviewing electronic messages sent to that recipient (claim 20); and a method in a computer system for delivery of an electronic message wherein the electronic message can be sent with one of a plurality of urgency levels indicating an urgency to review the electronic message, and wherein the sending of the another electronic message includes a higher urgency level than the sending of the electronic message (claim 21). Additionally, I also had conceived of a method in a computer system for delivery of an electronic message wherein the another electronic message is a reminder message sent to the recipient, the reminder message distinct from the sent electronic message (claim 22); and a method in a computer system for delivery of an electronic message wherein the another electronic message includes the electronic message, and wherein the sent another electronic message indicates an elevated priority that the sent another electronic message be reviewed (claim 23). I also had conceived of a method in a computer system for delivery of an electronic message wherein the another electronic message is sent to a second recipient distinct from the recipient, and wherein the another electronic message prompts the second recipient to facilitate review by the recipient of the sent electronic message (claim 24); and a method in a computer system for delivery of an electronic message including after receiving the confirmation, automatically sending a third electronic message after a second pre-determined period of time (claim 25). I also had conceived of a method in a computer system for delivery of an electronic message including when it is determined that the period of time has elapsed without receiving the confirmation and that the confirmation is not received within a second period of time, automatically sending a third electronic message (claim 26); and a method in a computer system for delivery of an electronic message including setting a timer to expire at the pre-determined period of time after the sending of the electronic message, and wherein the

another electronic message is automatically sent when the confirmation is not received before the timer expires (claim 27).

11. Also prior to February 19, 1998, I had conceived of a method for a sender of an electronic message to ensure that the electronic message is reviewed by a recipient, the computer-implemented method comprising determining whether after sending of the electronic message to a recipient a specified amount of time has elapsed without receiving an indication that the recipient reviewed the sent electronic message, and when it is determined that the period of time has elapsed without receiving the indication, automatically requesting a confirmation from the sender to send a second electronic message and when the confirmation is received from the sender, sending the second electronic message. Such a method is recited in claim 28 of the patent application.

12. Also prior to February 19, 1998, I had conceived of various alternate embodiments of a methods for a sender of an electronic message to ensure that the electronic message is reviewed by a recipient as described in the preceding paragraph. For example, I had conceived of a method for a sender of an electronic message to ensure that the electronic message is reviewed by a recipient wherein the electronic message is sent to a plurality of recipients, and including receiving a specification of an amount of time for each recipient such that the automatic requesting of the confirmation is performed for each recipient when an indication that the sent electronic message was reviewed by that recipient is not received within the specified amount of time for that recipient (claim 29); and a method for a sender of an electronic message to ensure that the electronic message is reviewed by a recipient wherein the requesting of the confirmation includes graphically presenting to the sender a request to send the second electronic message, the request including a selectable confirmation element such that selection of the confirmation element indicates the confirmation from the sender (claim 30). I also had conceived of a method for a sender of an electronic message to ensure that the electronic message is reviewed by a recipient including when it is determined that the period of time has elapsed without receiving the indication, automatically requesting a confirmation from the sender to send a third electronic message if the indication is not received within a second amount of time (claim 31).

13. Also prior to February 19, 1998, I had conceived of a computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system to deliver an electronic message, by determining whether after sending of the electronic message to a recipient a pre-determined period of time has elapsed without receiving a confirmation that the recipient reviewed the sent electronic message, and when it is determined that the period of time has elapsed without receiving the confirmation, sending another electronic message. Such a medium is recited in claim 32 of the patent application.

14. Also prior to February 19, 1998, I had conceived of various alternate embodiments of a computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system to deliver an electronic message as described in the preceding paragraph. For example, I had conceived of a computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system to deliver an electronic message wherein the electronic message is sent to a plurality of recipients, wherein a period of time is specified for each recipient, and

wherein the sending of the another message is performed automatically for each recipient when the period of time for that recipient has elapsed without receiving the confirmation for that recipient (claim 33); and I also had conceived of a computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system to deliver an electronic message wherein the another electronic message is a reminder message sent to the recipient, the reminder message distinct from the sent electronic message (claim 34). I also had conceived of a computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system to deliver an electronic message wherein the computer system is further controlled by when the confirmation is not received within the pre-determined amount of time, determining a second amount of time, and when the confirmation is not received within the determined second amount of time, automatically sending a third electronic message (claim 35).

15. Also prior to February 19, 1998, I had conceived of a computer system for ensuring that an electronic message is reviewed by a recipient, comprising a message sender for receiving an indication of the recipient for the electronic message and for sending the electronic message to the recipient, a message tracker for determining whether the recipient within a specified amount of time reviewed the electronic message sent by the message sender, and a message processor for automatically sending a second electronic message when the message tracker determines that the recipient did not review the sent electronic message within the specified amount of time. Such a computer system is recited in claim 36 of the patent application.

16. Also prior to February 19, 1998, I had conceived of various alternate embodiments of a computer system for ensuring that an electronic message is reviewed by a recipient as described in the preceding paragraph. For example, I had conceived of a computer system for ensuring that an electronic message is reviewed by a recipient wherein the message sender is further for receiving indications of a plurality of recipients for the electronic message and for receiving a specification of an amount of time for each recipient, wherein the message tracker is further for determining for each of the recipients whether the sent electronic message was reviewed by that recipient within the specified amount of time for that recipient, and wherein the message processor is further for sending the second message for each recipient for which the message tracker determines that that recipient did not review the sent electronic message within the specified amount of time for that recipient (claim 37). I also had conceived of a computer system for ensuring that an electronic message is reviewed by a recipient wherein the message processor is further for determining a second amount of time and for automatically sending a third electronic message when the indication is not received within the determined second amount of time (claim 38).

17. I executed Exhibit A on November 21, 1997 as shown on page 4 of Exhibit A.

18. All of the activities described above toward conceiving of the invention, and reducing the invention to practice, were conducted entirely within the United States, and more specifically, within the State of Idaho.

19. The undersigned certifies and declares that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that the making of willfully false statements and the like is punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and may jeopardize the validity of any patent issuing from this patent application

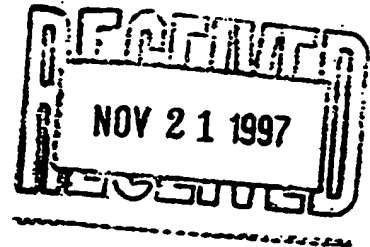20. Signed this 10ᵗʰ day of Sept, 2002 at Boise, Idaho.

Nancey J. Hammond

INVENTION DISCLOSURE FORM

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97.03844

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1. INVENTOR

(a) ▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓

2. DESCRIPTION

2.1 Title of invention

~~Automatic method of insuring that emails are received and read~~

2.2 What is the problem to be solved by your invention?

The invention provides a method of insuring that very important emails are received and read.

2.3 How did others solve the problem prior to your invention (If known)? (Describe the "prior art.") Why are these solutions non-optimal? Provide copies of any known "prior art."

Unknown

2.4 Provide a hardware block diagram of your invention. Also, describe how the hardware components of your invention are coupled together. Please include an assembly drawing if it is available. (If your invention is a pure software invention, then disregard this question.)

N/A

2.5 Provide a flow chart of the steps performed by your invention. Also, describe how your invention operates.

First embodiment of the invention:

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1) Send email with "Delivery Receipt" activated.
2) Determine if a "Delivery Receipt" has been received ●
3) If, within a predetermined time a "Delivery Receipt" has not been received, then automatically resend the email.

Second embodiment of the invention:

1) Send email with "Read Receipt" and "Delivery Receipt" activated.
2) Determine if "Delivery Receipt" has been received.
3) Determine if "Read Receipt" has been received.
4) If, within a predetermined time, only "Delivery Receipt" has been received, then automatically send a second email. (This email may state that an important email has been received and not read.)

Additional embodiments may also alert the sender of the email that the send email has not be received and/or read.

2.6 Describe the advantages of your invention.

The invention provides a method of ▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓
No known automated methods are known.

3. CONCEPTION OF INVENTION

3.1 Identify the date when you first conceived the invention. (If not sure, give the earliest date of which you are sure.)

3.2 To whom was the idea first described and on what date? (Other than a co-inventor.)

3.3 Identify the date of the first tangible record such as computer simulation, tape out, drawing or written description. Please specify type and location.

This disclosure

3.4 Identify related invention disclosures or related patents. Attach copies, if available.

None.

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3.5 IMPORTANT DATES

a. Has the invention been disclosed outside the company? No.

If yes, to whom, when, and in what form?

b. Have any articles describing your invention been published? No.

If yes, list author (s), title of article, publication and date.

c. Have any engineering samples been given out? No.

If yes, to whom and on what date?

d. Has any product using the invention been sold or offered for sale? No.

If yes, to whom and on what date?

e. Has any product that has been sold or offered for sale been manufactured or tested using the invention? No.

If yes, to whom and on what date?

3.6 When will (or did) Micron begin use of the invention experimentally?

Micron has not begun use of this invention.

3.7 When will (or did) Micron begin production of or use of this invention?

It is not know if Micron will use of this invention.

3.8 Was the invention developed during a joint development agreement or other contract with an outside company or the U.S. Government? If so, please explain.

No.

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4. INVENTOR(S):

ame: Nancey Hammond

User Name: _Njhammond_

Micron Phone: _898-4792_   Micron Fax: _898-7211_

Employee#: _21301_ Company#: _35_ Dept. #: _G35_

Dept Name: _tricycle_

Company: _X_ MEI/Nampa/PC Design and Manufacture
            ____ MEI/MN/Advanced Engineering
            ____ MEI/MN/ASIC Development
            ____ Micron Custom Manufacturing Services
            ____ SpecTek
            ____ NetFrame

Home Address: 1163 W State - Eagle, 2D 83616

County: Ada

tizenship: U.S.

Inventor's Supervisor: Hoyt Fleming

*If more than one inventor, attach additional copies of this page, one for each inventor.

Inventor Signature: _Nancey Hammond_   Date: _11/21/97_

5. WITNESS (required for a single inventor)

If there is only one inventor, a witness should sign and date this disclosure. A witness in this case is a non-inventor who understands the nature of the invention.

Hoyt C. Fley III   _11/21/97_
(Signature of Witness)   (Date)

_____
(Printed Name of Witness)

Note: If you have any questions or wish assistance completing this form, please call the
         ¬gal/Patent Department, (208) 898-4790 or 8-4792.

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MEI Legal

8/15/97

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I hereby certify that on the date specified below, this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to Box Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

September 10, 2002   _Denise Sheridan_

Date   Denise Sheridan

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant   : Nancey J. Hammond   Attorney Docket No.: 500249.01 (660082.527M)

Serial No.   : 09/153,994   Group Art Unit   : 2151

Filed   : September 17, 1998   Examiner   : L. Bullock, Jr.

Title   : METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR ENHANCING RELIABILITY OF COMMUNICATION WITH ELECTRONIC MESSAGE

APPOINTMENT OF ASSOCIATE POWER OF ATTORNEY

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Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

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       I, Dale C. Barr, attorney of record in the above-identified application, appoint as associate attorney **Jim Patterson,** Registration No. 52,103, of the firm of Dorsey & Whitney LLP, 1420 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3400, Seattle, Washington 98101, Customer No. 27,076.

Respectfully submitted,

DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP

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Registration No. 40,498

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